

A Trail To Every Classroom

Spring Workshops Kick-off 5th TTEC Season



TTEC Southern Team - Beauty Spot, North Carolina
April 30 - May 1, 2010



TTEC Mid-Atlantic Team - Mohican Center, New Jersey
May 7 - 8, 2010



TTEC Virginia Team - Mountain Lake Resort, Virginia
May 7 - 8, 2010

As many of you were winding down your school year dreaming of a summer respite, 54 teachers new to the Trail to Every Classroom Program (TTEC) were gearing up to work just a little bit longer.

May 2010 welcomed the 5th season of the place-based, service-learning program *A Trail to Every Classroom* hosted in collaboration between the Appalachian Trail Conservancy and the National Park Service.

A group of dedicated professionals from government, academia, and the non-profit world together with community and partnership groups, once again teamed together to host four regional workshops along the Appalachian Trail. While the curriculum and content of these workshops were similar, the views of and from the Appalachian National Scenic Trail were very different. The new roster of teachers left jazzed and excited at the possibilities ahead of them.

July 19 - 23, 2010, TTEC participants will meet outside of Harpers Ferry, West Virginia - the symbolic half-way point of the A.T. - at the National Conservation Training Center for TTEC's Summer Institute. This is a phenomenal networking opportunity allowing this year's program

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TTEC New England Team - Crawford Notch, New Hampshire, May 14 - 15, 2010

participants from all four A.T. regions; the Deep South, Virginia, Mid-Atlantic and New England; to brainstorm curriculum ideas, but most importantly turn the ideas into reality with fellow educational professionals.

The 2010 TTEC year is off to a great start! We completed the regional Spring Workshops and are now preparing for the Summer Institute. TTEC keeps getting better and better as we continue to learn and grow from your feedback.

Knowing that sustainability of TTEC curriculum is directly affected by community partner support, our 2008 evaluation focused on A.T. volunteer and management partners' perceptions of TTEC. We learned that there is overwhelming support and interest in TTEC, but uncertainty as to roles and responsibilities of working with youth. As a result we secured funding and are able to offer our first Appalachian Trail Youth Summit. Staff and volunteers of ATC, Trail clubs, and agency partners, along with youth from Groundwork USA (see <http://groundworkusa.org/> for more information) will converge at the Highland Center in the White Mountain National Forest in New Hampshire later this month. Throughout the week, adults will focus on methods to engage youth in the outdoors and child safety, while the youth focus on team building and outdoor skills. Plenary sessions will focus on generational trends in the workplace, bridging gaps, and perceptions of public lands. The week will culminate with adults and youth working side-by-side on several service-projects in the area. We will also identify future training opportunities that can be offered locally for Trail club volunteers to engage youth and support implementation of TTEC curriculum.

Please continue to share your ideas for improving TTEC and how we can continue to support your curriculum to engage youth on the Appalachian Trail. I also want to offer a special thanks to those volunteers and agency partners who have stepped outside of their normal responsibilities of trail maintenance to share their expertise and service opportunities with youth - they are our future volunteers.



"Hurricane Rita"

TTEC Achievements Celebrated in Washington at Library of Congress

On April 21, 2010, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy celebrated the success of its Trail to Every Classroom Program with an awards gala held at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. At the ceremony, teachers and program partners from five states were honored for their service and leadership role in engaging youth recreational and service-learning activities along the Appalachian National Scenic Trail.

The entire Jefferson Building at the Library of Congress was dedicated to this event, with over 180 people in attendance including several members of Congress. Those honored included; Steve Golden of the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program from Boston; Estelle Ruppert of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources; teachers and staff of the Blue Ridge Middle School, Purcellville, VA; Clare Long from the White Mountain National Forest; and the Georgian Appalachian Trail Club.

The Trail to Every Classroom program is now in its fifth year. To date 225 teachers have participated in the program, engaging over 12,500 students.



Marlene Jefferson, Assistant Principal Blue Ridge Middle School, Purcellville, VA and WV Representative Shelley Moore Capito.



Clare Long and Joel Holtrop, Deputy Chief USDA Forest Service



Estelle Ruppert with PA Representative Tim Holden.



A Trail to Every Classroom Alumni Roberta Pomponio and Bess Stuart of Loudoun County's Blue Ridge Middle School with the school's Assistant Principal, Marlene Jefferson.

Appalachian Trail Communities

Is the town you live in, teach in, or love to visit along the Appalachian Trail? If yes, then perhaps the town could apply to become an official Appalachian Trail Community.

Towns located along the Appalachian Trail's corridor are considered an asset by A.T. hikers, and many of these towns act as good friends and neighbors to the Trail. With millions of visitors coming to the Trail every year, it is no wonder that outfitters, restaurants and businesses catering to outdoor recreation call A.T. communities home.

Designation as an Appalachian Trail Community™ and participation in the program is designed to act as a catalyst for enhancing economic development, engaging community citizens as Trail visitors and stewards, aiding local municipalities and regional areas with conservation

planning and helping local community members see the Trail as a resource and asset. The program also serves to highlight and recognize those communities that are taking steps to ensure the ongoing protection of their natural, cultural and recreational resources, including the A.T. Preserving and enhancing a charming, memorable community destination will contribute to the long-term economic health of A.T. towns and make an A.T. hike even more desirable.

Application Process

There is an application process interested towns must go through to be considered for this program. For an application and more information on this program, visit www.appalachiantrail.org or call Julie Judkins, 828.254.3708.



Current A.T. Communities

Great Barrington, Massachusetts
Franklin, North Carolina
Hot Springs, North Carolina
Boiling Springs, Pennsylvania
Unicoi County, Tennessee



Did you know ????

- 2,175 -

The Appalachian National Scenic Trail is said to be 2,175 miles long. However, what most folks don't know is that from year to year the trail fluctuates in length because of trail projects that generally involve trail relocations. In 2010, the trail measured out at 2,179.1 miles long, next year this number could very well be smaller.

Pine Grove Furnace, Pennsylvania

Though most of us think of Harpers Ferry, WV as the half-way point on the A.T., the exact half-way point on the A.T. for 2010 is 3.3 miles south of Pine Grove Furnace, Pennsylvania.

Bear Mountain, New York

A large portion of the A.T. consists of previously established trails that have been linked together, however, the first section of trail actually built for the A.T. is at Bear Mountain, New York.

Share Your Stories with Us and Others

To keep the Trail to Every Classroom (TTEC) program alive - we want to hear from you! Celebrate some of your curriculum achievements with us, by sending news of your activities and photographs that documenting your journey.

The best way to stay connected with your former TTEC classmates and with those who came before you may be through this e-newsletter. So please, send us your news! If you submitted an article to a local paper, don't feel like you need to reinvent the wheel - send us a copy too! We are your Maine to Georgia connection. Photos can be submitted with your stories, however, be sure they can tell a story on their own - action or activity shots are best. Too - for every photo submitted, all individuals captured in the photo must have filled out/signed a National Park Service/Appalachian Trail Conservancy photo release form. If you need an electronic copy of the form, please ask - we'll be happy to send one your way. Help us keep it legal.

Submissions can be sent electronically to Jessica_Liptak@nps.gov, or via regular mail, to:

Jessica Liptak
TTEC - Appalachian Trail Park Office
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

You will receive TTEC E-newsletters every quarter - December, March, June, and September.

Submission deadlines:
August 20, 2010
November 20, 2010
February 20, 2011
May 20, 2011



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Appalachian National Scenic Trail
P.O. Box 50
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425

Appalachian Trail Conservancy Welcomes New Regional Director



Our newest member of the A.T. Family!

Peyton Evan Howard

Born March 30, 2010 7lbs, 10oz
Son of NPS A.T. Park Office Employee Jess Liptak

The Appalachian Trail Conservancy has recently filled it's New England Regional Director position. Hawk Metheny will officially be onboard mid-June, duty stationed at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in Woodstock, Vermont.

While "new" to the position, Hawk is not "new" to the Appalachian Trail community. He has spent over 20 years of his career with the Appalachian Mountain Club in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, while living in the Green Mountains of Vermont. Hawk has held a variety of positions with the non-profit, from field employee to program manager.

From July 2005 to May of this year, Hawk served on ATC's Board and chaired ATC's Stewardship Council.

Hawk is an avid hiker and outdoor enthusiast. He has thru hiked the A.T. and the Pacific Crest Trail. He is married to a wonderful woman named Zaz. Together they have a young daughter named Lyla. Welcome Hawk!



Hawk with daughter Lyla.

This publication is made possible through the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior in cooperation with the Appalachian Trail Conservancy (ATC) in addition to many other trail partners and clubs.

NPS Trail Superintendent/Manager
Pamela Underhill

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Appalachian National Scenic Trail

Comments? Submissions? Write to:
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Join the Journey! Become a Member

When you join the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, you become a member of the distinguished group of people dedicated to preserving and protecting the Appalachian Trail. Every dollar we raise goes to support ATC and maintainer club efforts to conserve the footpath, viewsheds, and environmental and cultural resources along the now 2,178 mile Trail.

As a member, you will receive the following benefits:

- A.T. Journeys: The Magazine of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, focusing on conservation efforts and celebrating the stories of our volunteers, hikers and Trail communities.
- Discounts at the Ultimate Appalachian Trail Store.
- An Appalachian Trail Conservancy decal and patch.
- An ATC Member card.

Join by phone (304.535.6331 ext. 120) or on the web by completing an on line form at www.appalachiantrail.org.